

Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Education

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020



Indiana
Department
of
Health



Indiana Deaf Education and Assessments of Language (IDEAL)



February 2021

HEA 1484 went into effect as [IC 20-35-12](#) on July 1, 2019. An Advisory Committee was formed to work alongside Center staff to create a Parent Document and [List of Tools & Assessments](#). Reporting of these measures can be completed electronically on our [IDEAL reporting portal](#). The Center also created [technical assistance videos and flyers](#)– we continue to provide assistance related to this bill to school districts and individual professionals.

All documents created in conjunction with this legislation are available on our [Center website](#)– to be downloaded or printed.– or access via these QR codes:



Reporting
Portal



List of Tools &
Assessments



Technical
Assistance



Parent
Document



■ ASL ■ Burmese ■ CDI ■ Hakha Chin
■ Hindi ■ Spanish ■ Tedim Chin ■ Tigryn

Ensuring Accessibility

In following our [guiding principle of respect, welcome & support children and their families across... languages and cultures](#), we provide interpretation during our services, consultations, meetings & presentations (see data to left) This helps to ensure access for families and professionals. .

Fast Facts

- 25% increase in referrals to First Steps (as compared to FY19)
- 73 HAAPI participating audiologists statewide
- 30+ committees with Center staff representation
- 700+ hours of interpretation for families and professionals in 7 different languages
- 7 IDEAL Technical Assistance videos with accompanying flyers
- 1300+ participants of presentations/ professional development provided by Center staff
- 90+ assessments provided; 100+ case conferences attended

Early Intervention

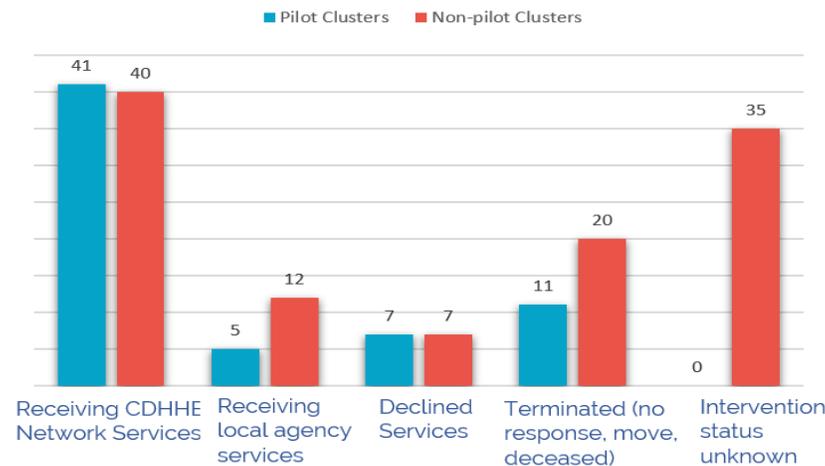
A new cohort of Parent Advisors completed training in 2020– resulting in total of 42 First Steps providers via our [CDHHE Network](#)– providing Audiology, DT-DHH, Parent Advisory, and Speech Therapy services. Over 600 services were provided to more than 330 children in 2020 through the CDHHE Network. This network is a collaborative effort between the Center and St Joseph Institute Indiana Service Corporation – two independent agencies in First Steps– as of the end of Fiscal Year 20, the Center had 25 First Steps providers and SJIISC had 17 providers serving statewide. In addition, the Center provided Deaf Mentor services, with 10 Deaf Mentors, providing services to more than 100 children. We continue to pursue these services to be recognized within the First Steps system.

As with so many family and child services in Indiana in 2020, early intervention services changed modality to virtual services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Center Early Intervention staff worked diligently to ensure they were familiar with the changing rules and procedures and mentoring our contract providers on these changes. The Center held virtual connections with our providers routinely during this ever-changing time– for support and to learn from one another.

Audiology

Our Audiology staff continue to provide a variety of in-person appointments: ABRs, Hearing Evaluations, Hearing Aid Fittings & Service, and Hearing Screenings. In addition, our audiology and deaf education staff worked together to assist with educational audiology needs via school consultations around the state.

Given the Executive Orders surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff persevered to provide telephone consultations, curbside service for hearing aids—ensuring families felt connected to professionals despite the shutdown. We also provided a number of [‘Tips & Tricks’](#) documents for families while hunkering down. Safety protocols and health screenings were promptly put in place when in-person services resumed.



First Steps Intake Pilot Project

We joined together with First Steps Clusters G & H to engage in a pilot project, participating in the intake process with service coordinators & families— an opportunity to share specific developmental needs of infants & toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing. This pilot project (data shown in graph on left) resulted in reduced loss to follow up between identification and intervention as well as increased specialized services through the CDHHE Network.

Mobile Unit

A contract was put in place to transition statewide outreach to a more transient approach in 2021. Want to see what it is all about? Take a [virtual tour!](#)



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Hearing aids provided through the Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana

Deaf Education

As COVID-19 changed the landscape of education in 2020, our staff provided support to schools and professionals in a multitude of ways. While our in-person services were on hold, consultations with families, students and professionals recommenced virtually— providing guidance and sharing resources to assist with the unique needs of individual students. Our DHH Teacher Roundtables transitioned to virtual means to share innovative measures to provide access to teaching and curricula with our students who are deaf and hard of hearing. One of these morphed into a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) resulting in 250+ participants from Indiana, across the US and Canada. [Consideration for masks and face shields](#) were shared along with [Continuous learning documents](#) for virtual education considerations.

For additional information on Center programming and to access our past quarterly newsletters:

www.cdhe.health.in.gov

